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IN THE CLAIMS:

Set forth below in ascending order, with status identifiers, is a complete listing of all claims currently under examination. Changes to any amended claims are indicated by strikethrough and underlining. This listing also reflects any cancellation and/or addition of claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating using optical pulses comprising:

launching the optical pulses into an optical fiber communication system including a plurality of sections having dispersion of opposite sign, the pulses being launched at a wavelength at which the system has normal average dispersion, no amplifier being disposed between a first pair of adjacent sections from the plurality of sections and a second pair of adjacent sections from the plurality of sections, the first pair of adjacent sections being mutually exclusive from the second pair of adjacent sections.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating using optical pulses comprising:

transmitting the optical pulses over an optical fiber communications system including a plurality of sections having dispersion of opposite sign, the pulses having a wavelength and a magnitude that allow the pulses to propagate in the system under normal average dispersion, a first pair of adjacent sections from the plurality of sections being connected to a second pair of adjacent sections from the plurality of sections without an intervening amplifier, the first pair and the second pair being adjacent within the optical fiber communications system, the first pair of adjacent section being mutually exclusive from the second pair of adjacent sections.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of communication using optical pulses, the method comprising: